of Urban Development "Synthesis Study of Public Financial Management and Accountability (PFMA) in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)". The main recommendations of the study *inter-alia* includes improving ULB budget preparation, development of model accounting rules and manuals, review and strengthening of ULB audit, capacity building, improvement in procurement performance, introduction of public finance management report card, revision of outdated staffing practices, strengthening of mechanism to ensure legislative compliance and improvement in public oversight.

(b) Government of India has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) which envisages an assistance of Rs. 50,000.00 crore over the Mission period of 7 years (2005-12). The provision is aimed at providing support to ULBs for implementation of projects and reforms. State Government and ULBs concerned are also supposed to make suitable budgetary provisions as their matching share according to Additional Central Assistance sanctioned.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Foreign companies buying land

2307. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of foreign companies are buying land through builders at various parts of the country, particularly around metropolitan cities and border areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government has taken any cautious approach towards land grabbing by foreign companies, particularly some important and sensitive areas of border;

(d) whether it is also a fact that huge lands have been purchased unlawfully by some companies in Badmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir. Government of India in this Ministry is not aware of any such specific instances since Land is a State Subject.

(b) to (e) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Constructing of a new HQ for MEA by CPWD

2308. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to award the work of designing and constructing the new headquarters (HQ) for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to the CPWD;

(b) whether the CPWD has the track record and acquired professional skill in the design and construction of a monumental structure in the Lutyens' Delhi's most hallowed architectural zone;

(c) whether Government has totally abandoned the process of selection of a suitable

design for the MEA HQ from the entries received from leading architects of India some six years ago; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The design entries submitted in the competition did not meet the requirements of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Mumbai as a global financial hub

2309. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has drawn up an ambitious Rs. 2.25 lakh crores action plan for the makeover of Mumbai, aimed to convert India's commercial capital into a global financial hub;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Maharashtra is serious on transforming Mumbai into a global financial centre and the plan is aimed at transforming the Mumbai metropolitan region into a modern urban centre;

(c) whether the World Bank has made certain suggestions in this regard and are keen to provide assistance;

(d) whether the project would be completed by 2020; and

(e) by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) As informed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), the Govt. of Maharashtra undertook preparation of a Business Plan for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) as a part of the Mumbai Transformation Project. The Vision Statement of the Business Plan is to "Transform MMR into a world class Metropolis with a vibrant economy and globally comparable quality of life for all its citizen". The total capital investment reqirements identified for a period upto 2011 are Rs. 2.94 lakh crore. The World Bank officials were consulted while preparing the Terms of Reference for the preparation of the Business Plan. The Business Plan identifies only sector-wise capital investment requirements upto the year 2021, which needs to be converted into projects before implementation.

Construction of houses by DDA under JNNURM

†2310. MS SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.